(CLASSIFICATION)

Copies to:
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P790037-0319

S/S # 7903705

Date March 7, 1979

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: President Carter FROM: Ms. Victoria K. Seigerman

DATE: February 14, 1979 SUBJECT: Encloses resolution requesting that People's Temple reimburse us for return of Guyana victims.

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: February 28, 1979 NSC # _____

_____ THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

_____ A draft reply is attached

_____ A draft reply will be forwarded.

_____ A translation is attached.

__X__ An information copy of a direct reply is attached.

_____ We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.

_____ Other

REMARKS:

PA/PC/CM:HHeilsnis LPC: ARA 1/79
X24933 3-5-79 CA 2/79
~~PA- KKing~~

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 2/27/81
IS ☐ OR XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDOWS EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

James Hall
Peter Tarnoff
Executive Secretary

(CLASSIFICATION)

P790037-0922

7903705

ID DOS 790228018 THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

TO: DOS DATE: FEB 28 79

REPLY: DIRECT REPLY. FURNISH INFORMATION COPY

IF MORE THAN 9 DAYS DELAY IS ENCOUNTERED PLEASE TELEPHONE MS. BYRNE 456-2113

BASIC CORRESPONDENCE AND CONTROL SHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) MUST BE RETURNED TO: AGENCY LIAISON (ROOM 94) WHITE HOUSE.

REMARKS:

X LETTER MAILGRAM TELEGRAM DATED: FEB 14 79

TO: PRESIDENT CARTER

FROM: VICTORIA K. SEIGERMAN, CLERK, LEGISLATURE OF ROCKLAND COUNTY, COUNTY OFFICE BLDG., NEW YORK, NY 10956

SUBJECT: ENCLS RES. REQUESTING THAT PEOPLE'S TEMPLE REIMBURSE US FOR RETURN OF GUYANA VICTIMS.

RESPONSE:

CLOSED OUT:

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT:

PAMELA ZINN

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CORRESPONDENCE

fore the results of these efforts are known, but you may be assured that we will continue to make every effort to keep the costs to the U.S. Government to the minimum necessary.

Sincerely,

Hodding Carter III
Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs and
Department Spokesman

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington D.C. 20520

P790037-0120

MAR 6 1979

Dear Ms. Seigerman:

Thank you for sending the President a copy of the resolution recently passed by the Legislature of Rockland County about the tragedy at Jonestown.

The Federal Government does not ordinarily pay to bring back the remains of Americans who die abroad. That is a responsibility of their families. If no next of kin can be found, the country where the death occurred is responsible for burial. It was evident, however, that it was beyond the ability of individual families or of the facilities available in Guyana to resolve the unprecedented problems that characterized this situation. In fact, it was not even clear who the next of kin were without identification being established. The families of those who died at Jonestown are, of course, expected to bear the responsibility for the disposition of the remains in the United States.

The costs to the Government of an effort of this magnitude obviously are considerable although substantially less than the $8 million figure used in some press reports. It will be some time before the total is known. The Office of Management and Budget, together with other agencies, is reviewing the financial aspects.

I believe you will be pleased to know that the Department of Justice is fully exploring possible legal remedies which can be used to recover the cost the U.S. Government has incurred in removing and processing the bodies of Americans from Guyana. In this regard, the Justice Department has filed suit against the People's Temple in an attempt to recover funds expended. It will be some time be-

Ms. Victoria K. Seigerman,
Clerk, Legislature of Rockland County,
County Office Building,
New City, New York.

P790037 09223 79.776.5

The Legislature of Rockland County

County Office Building
New City, New York 10956

SAM COLMAN
Chairman
VICTORIA K. SEIGERMAN
Clerk

914 425 5000
425 5100

February 14, 1979

The Hon. James E. Carter
The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Re: Resolution No. 22 - Memorializing the United States Government to Request Reimbursement from the People's Temple to Indemnify the United States Government for the Costs Connected with the Return of the Victims of the Guyana Incident.

Dear Mr. President:

The attached resolution was adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County at its February 6, 1979 meeting.

We would appreciate your using your good offices to implement the intent of this resolution.

Very truly yours,

Victoria K. Seigerman

Victoria K. Seigerman
Clerk to the Legislature

VKS:mu
Enc.

Introduced by:
Hon. Theodore R. Dusanenko

Referral No 5450
2/6/79

RESOLUTION NO. 22 OF 1979

6 A 8 MEMORIALIZING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO REQUEST REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE TO INDEMNIFY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR THE COSTS CONNECTED WITH THE RETURN OF THE VICTIMS OF THE GUYANA INCIDENT

Reisman/Dusanenko/unanimous

WHEREAS, the United States Government has estimated the cost to return the bodies of the victims of the Guyana incident to be in the millions of dollars, and

WHEREAS, it has been suggested that the cost incident to the return of the bodies of the victims from Guyana be reimbursed from the People's Temple, and

WHEREAS, the Budget and Finance Committee of this Legislature has met considered and approved this resolution, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of Rockland County hereby memorializes the President of the United States and Congress to request that the People's Temple reimburse the United States Government for all cost connected with the return of the bodies of the victims of the Guyana incident, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk to the Legislature be authorized to send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives and to such other persons as the Clerk to the Legislature of Rockland County, in her discretion seems appropriate to further effectuate the purposes of this resolution.

CA/ajs
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